

REMARKS

1. Upon consideration of Applicant's response to the first Requirement for Election in the instant application, the Examiner believes that neither his original designation of species, nor the Applicant's in response, was entirely correct. It is the Examiner's view that the present application is principally directed toward an invention comprising three distinct parts: (1) a means for resolving image information; (2) a means for maintaining intimacy of contact between the image resolving means and the image information storage means; and (3) an alignment means.

Having reached this conclusion, the Examiner espouses the view that there are two distinct species of the means for resolving image information:

Species I, associated with FIGS. 2-5 and 12; and

Species II, associated with FIGS. 13 and 14.

Furthermore, the Examiner contends that there are four distinct species of the means for maintaining intimacy of the relationship between the image resolving means and the information storage means:

Species A, in FIGS. 2 and 5;

Species B, in FIG. 3;

Species C, in FIG. 4; and

Species D, in FIG. 12.

Last, the Examiner asserts that there are three patentably distinct species of the alignment means:

Species i, in FIGS. 7-11;

Species ii, in FIGS. 16 and 17; and

Species iii, in FIGS. 19-25.

The Examiner requires that the Applicant elect a single disclosed species of the means for resolving image information, a single disclosed species of the means for maintaining intimacy of the relationship between the image resolving means and the image storage means, and a single disclosed species of the alignment means. The Examiner is willing to concede that at least claim 13 may be generic in this instance.

2. Responsive to this Requirement for Election, the Applicant provisionally elects Species II of the means for resolving image information. This species comprises a barrier strip that is described in conjunction with FIGS. 13 and 14, and claimed in claim 15.

With respect to the means for maintaining intimacy of the relationship between the image resolving means and the information storage means, the Examiner is correct in noting that a number of distinct species are described in the specification. However, the Examiner has not enumerated all of the recited species and their associated drawing figures. Consequently, the Applicant provisionally elects the species illustrated in FIG. 18 and described in conjunction therewith. This elected species is the subject matter of claims 21 and 22.

Regarding the requirement that a species of alignment means be elected, the Applicant respectfully submits that the alignment means referred to by the Examiner in this context should more properly be denominated an "adjustment means," or perhaps a "combined drive means and adjustment means," since this is the language used in the specification where this feature is described and claimed. In any event, the Applicant provisionally elects Species iii, illustrated and described in conjunction with FIGS. 19-25. This subject matter is recited in claims 23 through 33.

3. Pursuant to this Preliminary Amendment and Provisional Election, the Applicant has added new claim 34. The subject matter of new claim 34 is thoroughly illustrated and described in the specification. No new subject matter has been introduced. The Applicant respectfully submits that claim 34 is allowable over the prior art of record.

4. Examination of the claims on the merits is respectfully requested.

5. A check in the amount of \$225.00 is enclosed to cover a two-month extension of time for response to the Office Action entered in this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

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